



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

FTK

REPRESENTATIVE BRIAN BECKER
19TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM 4009
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

CAPITOL: 860-240-8585
FAX: 860-240-0206
E-MAIL: Brian.Becker@cga.ct.gov

MEMBER
COMMERCE COMMITTEE
ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE

Statement of Brian S. Becker
State Representative for the 19th Assembly District
before the
Insurance and Real Estate Committee
Connecticut General Assembly
February 21, 2012
in support of
HB 5143

An Act Concerning Insurance Coverage for Perishable Food Donated by
Certain Food Establishments

Chairman Crisco, Chairman Megna, Ranking Member Kelly, Ranking Member Sampson, and the other distinguished members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee, thank you for raising and taking the time to hear testimony on HB 5143, An Act Concerning Insurance Coverage for Perishable Food Donated by Certain Food Establishments.

As a State Representative for three of the towns hardest hit by the October storm, I saw firsthand at each of my communities' shelters the need for food. Over the course of storm's aftermath, thousands of meals were served in each of the towns. As the days dragged on, the need for additional food grew.

At the same time, most businesses, including a number of grocery stores were without power. As a result, perishable food items spoiled. My understanding is that vendors are entitled to make claims under their current insurance policies only if they throw the food away. Wasting food at any time is a shame, but wasting food during a state of emergency is a crime.

This bill seeks to address this issue by allowing vendors to make claims under their insurance policies for losses sustained during a state of emergency while still allowing the food to be put to good use.

Please support this bill. Thank you.